


*Reverend*

(1)  
THE  
**ANSWERS**  
COMMANDED BY  
**His MAJESTY**

To be given by the Right Honourable  
The EARL of **NOTTINGHAM**  
L<sup>d</sup> H. Chancellour of ENGLAND,

Upon Several  
**ADDRESSES** Presented to His  
**MAJESTY** in Council at *Hamp-*  
*ton-Court,*

The 19<sup>th</sup> of May, 1681.

 His Majesty hath considered the several *Addresses* which have been now presented to Him, and commands me to return these *Answers* to Them.

*First*, I am to let the *Commissioners of the Lieutenancy* know, That His Majesty doth very well accept and approve the Address they have made, and thinks that Zeal with which they have express'd their Loyalty and good Affections to His Person and Government, to be at this time a very seasonable piece of Duty and Service, and doth heartily Thank them for it.

To the *Gentlemen of the Borough of Southwark*, His Majesty doth not onely give His hearty Thanks, but declares Himself to be extremely well pleased with the Form of their Address, and thinks they proceed upon the truest and the surest Grounds that can be,

A

when

(2)

when they lay it down for a Maxim, That steady Loy-  
alty is the only Foundation of true Felicity.

And I am to assure you Both, That His Majesty  
will always retain a Gracious Remembrance of your  
good Services, and that you shall not fail to find the  
Effects of it, wherever you shall apply your selves  
to His Majesty for His favour.

As for that other Address, which styles itself, The  
humble Petition of the L. Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons  
of the City of London in Common Council assembled, and  
which is very much discredited by these other Ad-  
dresses which accompany it, I have many things in  
Command to say to it.

The King desires, that a Petition which seems  
to come from the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common-  
Council of the City of London, should have consisted  
of such Matters onely, as relate to the particular  
Concerns of the City; at least He thought He should  
have found in it some due Acknowledgment of His  
continual Care in Preserving and Improving your  
Trade, and Supporting your Liberties and Fran-  
chises.

But, contrary to His Expectation, and (as He  
thinks) to your Duty, He finds this Petition meddling  
with Matters of State and Government, Things which  
do in no sort appertain to you, but are quite out of  
your Sphere: And if this should pass without Re-  
proof, the meanest Corporation, nay, the meanest  
Village in England, will have as much right to be med-  
dling in these Matters, as you have.

The only End and Use of Common-Councils in  
London, is for the Business of London; you are not the  
Common-council of the Nation, and yet you behave  
your selves so, as if you thought you were.

But the King doth not look upon this Petition as  
proceeding from the unanimous Consent of the Com-  
mon-Council; He is very well inform'd that it  
pass

(3)

past there by an inconsiderable Majority, but *fourteen* Votes in the whole, and against the Sense of the Major part of the Court of Aldermen, And His Majesty hath a great Value and Kindness for the Honesty and Discretion of those who dissented from it. And He looks upon the rest as misled by some ill Men, who make it their business to begin that Confusion in the City, which they see no hopes of beginning elsewhere.

And the King does not believe that the Matter of this Petition was ever well Considered by you, because He finds in it so many Presumptions and Mistakes.

It prays the *Calling of a Parliament* at a time when the King hath already Declared to all the World, That there shall be frequent Parliaments, and so seems to Doubt of that Assurance which all good Subjects give the King most humble Thanks for.

It prays a *Continuation of that Parliament* till all their Business be dispatcht, and so breaks in upon the highest Trust which is lodged in the King, to whom alone it belongs to appoint the Times and Seasons.

It deprives the King of the whole Honour of His Grace and Goodness in Calling a Parliament, by making it seem to be the effect of your Importunity.

So that nothing in the World could be more contrary to the seeming Ends of this Address, than the Address it self.

And besides all this, the King takes notice of another *Expression* in your Address, wherein you pretend to be much troubled, that certain *Pamphlets* have lately come out which speak very dishonourably of the Proceedings of the two last Parliaments.

Now the King would have been glad, you had mention'd ~~what~~ Pamphlets you mean, lest otherwise the World suppose you to have a *secret meaning*  
in

in this general Expression; such a meaning as no honest man or good Subject dares own.

And the King would have been glad too, that you had likewise taken Notice of such other Pamphlets as defame His Majesties Person and Government, and Libel all the Orders and Constitutions both of Church and State.

But it seems your Curiosity hath been very great to look after some kind of Pamphlets, but your Diligence hath been very little when you should have lookt after the rest, and have punisht the Seditious.

Notwithstanding all this, the King is still of Opinion, That there are but very few among you, who deserve these Reproofs, He is not only Confident of the Affections of the City in general, as knowing that no Prince ever deserved better of His People; But He believes the greatest part of the Court of Aldermen and of the Common-Council too, if they had all been present, to be very much addicted to His Service.

If therefore there be any among you who seek to make Divisions, He hopes you will mark them, and avoid them, and that you will Study to be quiet and to do your own Business; For the King hath set His Heart upon this City to do them all the good He can, and 'tis only the Peace of His Government which can bring you any Prosperity.

The King therefore recommends it to you and requires it of you, to take effectual Care, that there be no kind of Disturbance or Disorder among you.

## L O N D O N,

Printed by the Assigns of John Bill, Thomas Newcomb, and Henry Hills, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Majesty. 1681.